



News & Events

University News & Information

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Retrospective Exhibit of Dan Piel's Paintings To Be Exhibited at Cal Poly May 14-June 4

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The paintings of Dan Piel, a former member of Cal Poly's Art and Design faculty who passed away in 2002, will be exhibited in the University Art Gallery Friday, May 14, through Friday, June 4.

Titled "The Retrospective Exhibition of Dan Piel's Art from Childhood to Madison Avenue to San Luis Obispo," the exhibit will open with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. May 14.

After a long career in advertising on Madison Avenue in New York City, Piel went to teach at Washington State University in Pullman. He was hired as a graphic design instructor at Cal Poly in 1980 and later taught drawing and painting as well.

"Dan Piel's years in the advertising business helped develop him into a consummate salesman who could charm your socks off," said Chuck Jennings, art and design professor emeritus. Jennings fondly remembers Piel and his good humor. "It was wonderful to see him return to his passion for painting. Piel's love for it made him prolific."

Piel is widely known in San Luis Obispo as the artist who painted the huge "Mozart" in the Cal Poly Theatre. His large portrait of President Lyndon B. Johnson hangs in the Johnson Library in Austin, Texas, and his portraits of Chief Joseph hang in the Nez Perce County Museum in Lewiston, Idaho. A portrait series, titled "From Lincoln to Lenin, first exhibited at Cal Poly in the '80s was purchased by the Lavignes/Bastille Gallery in Paris.

A friend, Jim Maguire, said, "Dan was the quintessential artist with the artist's constant sense of wonder and requisite eye for detail. He was a 'seeker of wisdom' and, in particular, a seeker of the 'source of creative energy in the universe.' He was most content when he could share his art and himself with those he cared about."

"Thanks to Dan's gracious and generous wife, Susan Piel, we will all carry a little of Dan Piel with us with the exhibit catalog, and once

again we will be able to be blessed by Dan Piel's art and inspiration,”
said Barbara Morningstar, curator of the University Art Gallery.

University Art Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m.
to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday. Parking is free on the weekends.
For more information, call the University Art Gallery at 756-1571.

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